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1. NEHRU'S VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND HUNGARY

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[REDACTED] Prime Minister Nehru told Ambassador Cooper, in a conversation lasting an hour and a half on 7 December, that he believes the danger of war and the possibility of

Soviet intervention in the Middle East have been removed by the withdrawal of British and French troops. Nehru emphasized that Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia are violently opposed to the Baghdad pact and said that he did not believe Nuri Said's regime in Iraq would last long.

The Indian prime minister also said that Hungary had proved that Communism could not be externally imposed. He believes that the USSR has lost world prestige as a result of intervention in Hungary and that a struggle to reimpose Stalinist methods may be going on within the USSR. He added he did not think this would succeed.

Nehru also claimed that Pakistan had recently increased its agitation against India and that Karachi had told Soviet leaders that arms received from the United States were for use against India. He indicated he intends to discuss this with President Eisenhower when he comes to Washington on 16 December.

Ambassador Cooper comments that Nehru was more frank, open and friendly toward the United States than at any time since they first met in mid-1955.

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2. BRITISH AND FRENCH PRESSING FOR PARTICIPATION IN SUEZ CLEARANCE

The British and French are energetically seeking firm UN commitments on the use of their salvage equipment and personnel in the Suez Canal before the withdrawal--presumably by 18 December--of the last of their military forces from the area.

British UN delegate Sir Pierson Dixon told Secretary General Hammarskjold on 7 December that London believes some sort of phased withdrawal of the salvage fleet must begin within a few

days unless the UN can give assurances that the British equipment and personnel will be used, and that safeguards of their security can be arranged. In this respect, Dixon mentioned that all personnel should have UN diplomatic immunity and that all vessels should be allowed to fly the UN flag.

In Paris, the Foreign Ministry again urged the American embassy on 8 December to overcome Egyptian objections to the operation of the Anglo-French salvage fleet by British and French personnel.

American naval observers commented on 8 December that the group of Danish, Norwegian, and Italian firms organized for the UN by Lt. Gen. Wheeler could perform the canal clearing job without British help or equipment, but would take longer.

Secretary General Hammarskjold has indicated to the US UN delegation that he has "full permission" from Egypt to use any available salvage equipment but that no British or French technicians can be used now or in the immediate future.

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3. FIGHTING REPORTEDLY CONTINUES IN HUNGARY

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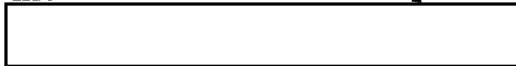
Guerrilla fighting is in progress in several Hungarian provinces, according to press reports from Vienna. One report indicated that a battle between

Soviet troops and a large group of Hungarian rebels was in progress north of Budapest. Information from Hungary has been fragmentary, however, since martial law was imposed on 9 December, and normal communications from Hungary to the West have been disrupted.

Soviet and Hungarian armed forces have continued their deployment in an effort to seal off centers of potential resistance and speed disarmament of the freedom fighters. Earlier the regime threatened death to all those who had not surrendered their arms by 1800 on 11 December.

There are also reports that Soviet presidium members Malenkov and Suslov have arrived in Budapest to reshuffle the Hungarian government. This coincides with other unconfirmed reports that Kadar has already been relieved. Kadar, a "national communist," has been thoroughly discredited by his role in Hungary since 4 November, and his replacement by a tougher-minded, more adroit Communist politician would be logical.

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4. SYRIA ARMS YOUTH GROUPS

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[REDACTED] The American army attaché in Damascus reports that between 80,000 and 100,000 Syrian youths enlisted in the "popular resistance" movement have completed the 15-day training period and that armed "young patriots" are now seen on all Damascus streets. On 6 December 3,200 of them, all armed with Czech small machine guns, paraded for President Quwatli.

The youths are trained in the use of small arms, grenades, and explosives and are organized into units of about 100 each. On completion of training they are issued small arms which they may keep "until the end of the emergency."

Comment Organized during the Suez crisis ostensibly for resistance to external aggression, the movement is probably now viewed by the leftist-nationalist group as a defense against any threat to its position.

Previous reports indicated that these youths were being trained by junior army officers sympathetic to the nationalist, pro-Egyptian policies of Colonel Sarraj, Syrian army strong man. [REDACTED]

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